



**Agreement between TPEF and Serlimar:
100 garbage bins will be placed on the
coast of Aruba**



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Trump faces questions about whether he'll drag down the GOP

By SARA BURNETT
 Associated Press

Donald Trump's grip on the Republican faithful was evident from the moment he left the federal courthouse in Miami last week.

Fresh off becoming the first former president to face criminal charges levied by the government he once oversaw, Trump's motorcade moved through a crowd of hundreds of mostly adoring fans. He met more supporters at a Cuban restaurant in Little Havana, a Miami neighborhood that, like much of south Florida, has swung toward Republicans in recent years.

A federal indictment on charges of mishandling the nation's most sensitive national security secrets would doom any other White House hopeful. But Trump's reception in Miami — and the more than \$7 million he raised after the indictment — was a reminder of the central tension coursing through the Republican Party as the 2024 presidential primary gets underway. For now, no one comes close to Trump in his command of the voters who will decide the GOP's nominee next year.

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Former President Donald Trump greets supporters at Versailles restaurant on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, in Miami

Associated Press

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Trump faces questions about whether he'll drag down the GOP

Continued from Front

But Trump's path beyond the primary is far more perilous as he faces significant and growing questions about his ability to appeal to a broader, more moderate set of voters in a possible general election matchup against President Joe Biden. If Trump fails, he risks not just losing the White House contest but also dragging down other Republican candidates on the ballot as the party aims to retake the U.S. Senate and keep the House.

Former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is among those warning Republicans that what is popular in a primary may not carry the general election. The frequent Trump critic backed a moderate Republican to succeed him in last year's governor's race. But Trump's preferred candidate carried the primary and was soundly defeated in the general election, a result that played out in key races across the country.

"We had three losing cycles in a row," Hogan said. "It's pretty hard to lose the White House, but we did it. It's pretty hard to lose the House, the Senate and the White House, but we did that also. And in the last election when we should have won the Senate back, picked up governor seats and picked up 50 seats in the House ... Republicans did not make gains really." Trump is not the only GOP contender facing such concerns. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis' national electability has been called into question after he signed into law a state ban on abortions performed after six weeks, delighting conservatives but leaving him as an outlier among broader voters. While many Americans back some restrictions on abortion, especially after the first trimester, many do not agree with the most extreme measures pushed in Republican-led states such as Florida, according to polling that also showed most Americans support a federal law al-



This combination of 2023 photos shows, from left, former President Donald Trump, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, former Vice President Mike Pence and South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott.

Associated Press

lowing access to abortion nationwide.

DeSantis also alienated some Republicans when he appeared to dismiss Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine as a "territorial dispute," comments he later had to walk back.

No one in the race, however, carries the same level of baggage as Trump, particularly after the latest indictment, which follows charges in New York City that he paid hush money to porn actor Stormy Daniels to cover up an affair. He's unlikely to attract new support after the allegations in Florida, which center on allegations that he took and refused to return boxes of classified documents, including some that could put military members and other sources at risk if disclosed.

The hand-wringing over the GOP's future began well before Trump's latest indictment.

In announcing her presidential campaign in February, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, who was Trump's ambassador to the United Nations, was blunt in addressing the party's general election challenge.

"We've lost the popular vote in seven of the last eight presidential elec-

tions," she said. "Our cause is right, but we have failed to win the confidence of a majority of Americans."

Since Trump's federal indictment in Miami, some of his rivals have begun to test how far they can go in criticizing him, positioning themselves in a way that may be helpful in a general election but also tempering their remarks by blasting the Department of Justice for bringing charges.

While Trump's rivals may not be ready to fully take him on, the party establishment is increasingly active in trying to block his acolytes from being nominated in down ballot races or encouraging hopefuls to change the subject from its losing messages of the past.

The Republican National Committee, for example, conducted a review of the GOP's recent performance. A draft report, which did not mention Trump by name, concluded that the party needs to move beyond "relitigating previous elections," an apparent allusion to the incessant but debunked claims he won the 2020 presidential contest.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee, the campaign arm of the Sen-

ate GOP, also has said it's shifting tactics after opting to sit out last year's primary elections and let voters decide the nominees. After failing to retake Senate control the organization now says it will play in primaries if needed, providing money and other resources to candidates it believes have the best chance to win a general election.

The organization already got news it hoped for when Doug Mastriano, a far-right Pennsylvania lawmaker who was endorsed by Trump last year and lost badly to the Democratic governor candidate, opted not to run for the Senate in 2024. Republicans are hopeful that former hedge fund CEO David McCormick, who lost last year's primary to another Trump-backed candidate, will run again and take on Democratic Sen. Bob Casey.

Trump, who has falsely called the charges against him a political prosecution, insists that he had redefined the GOP, saying earlier this year that "the old Republican Party is gone, and it's never coming back." The former president and his supporters point to his 2016 victory as evidence of his ability to win, noting he won Ohio and Florida

when the GOP nominees in 2012 and 2008 could not and was the first Republican presidential candidate to win Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania in decades.

"We forever revolutionized the electoral map for Republicans," Trump said. "We paved a path to victory."

That argument ignores the facts that Trump lost all three states in 2020 and that all three elected Democratic governors in 2018 and again last fall. In all three states, Trump's endorsed candidates lost.

Republicans' losses in competitive races like those are a big part of former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's pitch to voters about why it's time for Trump to go. Christie, who also is running for the GOP nomination for president, noted in a recent appearance on Fox News Channel that even before the latest charges, the party under Trump struggled in those contests.

"We're tired of losing," Christie said. "And look, if the person at the top gets all the credit when things go well, they also must be accountable for what happens when things go badly." □

More than 1M people are dropped from Medicaid

By DAVID A. LIEB and AN-DREW DeMILLO
Associated Press

More than 1 million people have been dropped from Medicaid in the past couple months as some states moved swiftly to halt health care coverage following the end of the coronavirus pandemic.

Most got dropped for not filling out paperwork.

Though the eligibility review is required by the federal government, President's Joe Biden's administration isn't too pleased at how efficiently some other states are accomplishing the task. "Pushing through things and rushing it will lead to eligible people — kids and families — losing coverage for some period of time," Daniel Tsai, a top federal Medicaid official recently told reporters.

Already, about 1.5 million people have been removed from Medicaid in more than two dozen states that started the process in April or May, according to publicly available reports and data obtained by The Associated Press.

Florida has dropped several hundred thousand people, by far the most among states. The drop rate also has been particularly high in other states. For people whose cases were decided in May, around half or more got dropped in Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Nevada, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Utah and West Virginia.

By its own count, Arkansas has dropped more than 140,000 people from Medicaid.

The eligibility redeterminations have created headaches for Jennifer Mojica, 28, who was told in April that she no longer qualified for Medicaid because Arkansas had incorrectly determined her income was above the limit.

She got that resolved, but was then told her 5-year-old son was being dropped from Medicaid because she had requested his cancellation — something that never happened, she said. Her son's coverage has been restored, but now



Samantha Richards stands outside of her apartment, Friday, June 9, 2023, in Bloomington, Ind.

Mojica says she's been told her husband no longer qualifies. The uncertainty has been frustrating, she said.

"It was like fixing one thing and then another problem came up, and they fixed it and then something else came up," Mojica said.

Arkansas officials said they have tried to renew coverage automatically for as many people as possible and placed a special emphasis on reaching families with children. But a 2021 state law requires the post-pandemic eligibility redeterminations to be completed in six months, and the state will continue "to swiftly disenroll individuals who are no longer eligible," the Department of Human Services said in statement. Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has dismissed criticism of the state's process.

"Those who do not qualify for Medicaid are taking resources from those who need them," Sanders said on Twitter last month. "But the pandemic is over — and we are leading the way back to normalcy."

More than 93 million people nationwide were enrolled in Medicaid as of the most recent available data in February — up nearly one-third from the pre-pandemic total in January 2020. The rolls swelled because federal law prohibited states from removing people from Medicaid during the health emergency in exchange

for providing states with increased funding.

Now that eligibility reviews have resumed, states have begun plowing through a backlog of cases to determine whether people's income or life circumstances have changed. States have a year to complete the process. But tracking down responses from everyone has proved difficult, because some people have moved, changed contact information or disregarded mailings about the renewal process.

Before dropping people from Medicaid, the Florida Department of Children and Families said it makes between five and 13 contact attempts, including texts, emails and phone calls. Yet the department said 152,600 people have been non-responsive.

Their coverage could be restored retroactively, if people submit information showing their eligibility up to 90 days after their deadline.

Unlike some states, Idaho continued to evaluate people's Medicaid eligibility during the pandemic even though it didn't remove anyone. When the enrollment freeze ended in April, Idaho started processing those cases — dropping nearly 67,000 of the 92,000 people whose cases have been decided so far.

"I think there's still a lot of confusion among families on what's happen-

ing," said Hillarie Hagen, a health policy associate at the nonprofit Idaho Voices for Children.

She added, "We're likely to see people showing up at a doctor's office in the coming months not knowing they've lost Medicaid." Advocates fear that many households losing coverage may include children who are actually still eligible, because Medicaid covers children at higher income levels than their parents or guardians. A report last year by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services forecast that children would be disproportionately impacted, with more than half of those disenrolled still actually eligible.

That's difficult to confirm, however, because the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services doesn't require states to report a demographic breakdown of those dropped. In fact, CMS has yet to release any state-by-state data. The AP obtained data directly from states and from other groups that have been collecting it.

Medicaid recipients in numerous states have described the eligibility redetermination process as frustrating.

Julie Talamo, of Port Richey, Florida, said she called state officials every day for weeks, spending hours on hold, when she was trying to ensure her 19-year-old special-needs son, Thomas,

was going to stay on Medicaid.

She knew her own coverage would end but was shocked to hear Thomas' coverage would be whittled down to a different program that could force her family to pay \$2,000 per month. Eventually, an activist put Talamo in contact with a senior state health-care official who confirmed her son would stay on Medicaid.

"This system was designed to fail people," Talamo said of the haphazard process.

Some states haven't been able to complete all the eligibility determinations that are due each month. Pennsylvania reported more than 100,000 incomplete cases in both April and May. Tens of thousands of cases also remained incomplete in April or May in Arizona, Arkansas, Indiana, Iowa, New Mexico and Ohio.

"If states are already behind in processing renewals, that's going to snowball over time," said Tricia Brooks, a research professor at the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families. "Once they get piles of stuff that haven't been processed, I don't see how they catch up easily."

Among those still hanging in the balance is Gary Rush, 67, who said he was notified in April that he would lose Medicaid coverage. The Pittsburgh resident said he was told that his retirement accounts make him ineligible, even though he said he doesn't draw from them. Rush appealed with the help of an advocacy group and, at a hearing this past week, was told he has until July to get rid of about \$60,000 in savings.

Still, Rush said he doesn't know what he will do if he loses coverage for his diabetes medication, which costs about \$700 a month. Rush said he gets \$1,100 a month from Social Security. In Indiana, Samantha Richards, 35, said she has been on Medicaid her whole life and currently works two part-time jobs as a custodian. □

Associated Press

A search is underway for missing submarine that takes people to see Titanic

The Associated Press

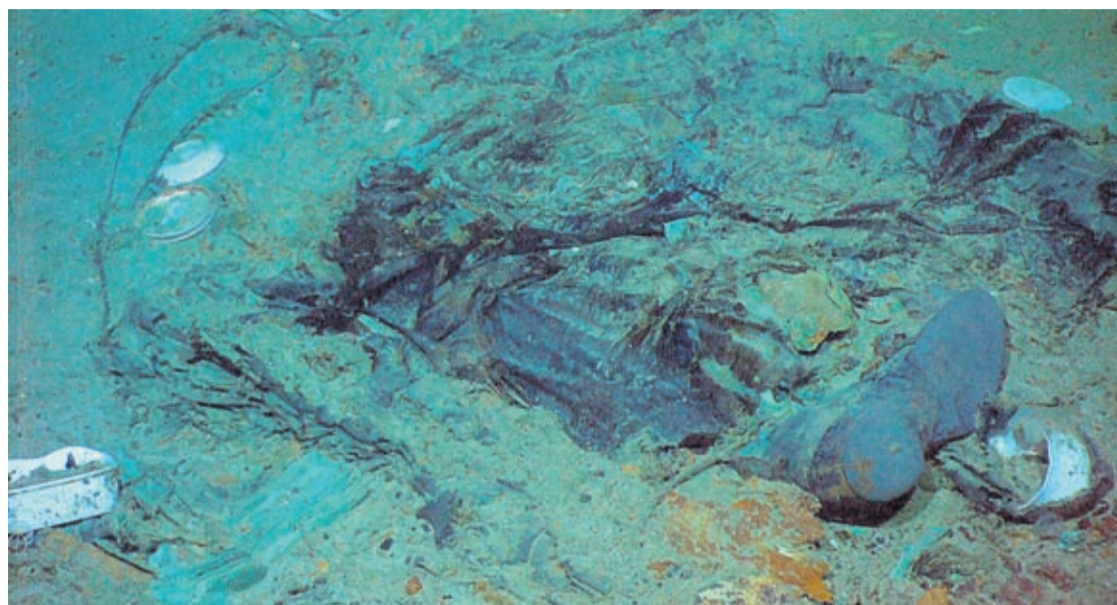
A rescue operation was underway deep in the waters of the Atlantic Ocean on Monday in search of a submersible vessel that carries people to view the wreckage of the Titanic.

The Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Halifax, Nova Scotia said the vessel was reported overdue around 9:13 p.m. Sunday, about 435 miles (700 kilometres) south of St. John's, Newfoundland. Lt. Cmdr. Len Hickey said a Canadian Coast Guard vessel and military aircraft were assisting the search effort, which was being led by the U.S. Coast Guard in Boston.

OceanGate Expeditions confirmed the search for its five-person submersible and said its focus was on those aboard the vessel and their families.

"We are deeply thankful for the extensive assistance we have received from several government agencies and deep sea companies in our efforts to reestablish contact with the submersible," the company said in a statement. "We are working toward the safe return of the crewmembers."

David Concannon, an ad-



This 2004 photo provided by the Institute for Exploration, Center for Archaeological Oceanography/University of Rhode Island/NOAA Office of Ocean Exploration, shows the remains of a coat and boots in the mud on the sea bed near the Titanic's stern.

Associated Press

viser to the company, said Oceangate lost contact with the sub Sunday morning. It had a 96-hour oxygen supply, he said in an email to The Associated Press on Monday afternoon. "Now 32 hours since sub left surface," said Concannon, who said he was supposed to be on the dive but could not go due to another client matter. He said officials are working to get a remotely operated vehicle that can reach a depth of 6,000 meters (about 20,000

feet) to the site as soon as possible.

Action Aviation confirmed that its company chairman, U.K. businessman Hamish Harding, was one of the tourists on board. The company's managing director, Mark Butler, told the AP that the crew set out on Friday.

"Every attempt is being made for a rescue mission. There is still plenty of time to facilitate a rescue mission, there is equipment on board for survival in this

event," Butler said. "We're all hoping and praying he comes back safe and sound."

The expedition was OceanGate's third annual voyage to chronicle the deterioration of the iconic ocean liner that struck an iceberg and sank in 1912, killing all but about 700 of the roughly 2,200 passengers and crew. Since the wreckage's discovery in 1985, it has been slowly succumbing to metal-eating bacteria, and some have predicted

the ship could vanish in a matter of decades as holes yawn in the hull and sections disintegrate.

The initial group of tourists was funding the expedition by spending anywhere from \$100,000 to \$150,000 apiece.

The latest trip was scheduled to depart from St. John's, Newfoundland, in early May and finish up at the end of June, according to a court documents filed by the company in April with a U.S. District Court in Virginia that presides over Titanic matters.

Unlike submarines that leave and return to port under their own power, submersibles require a ship to launch and recover them. OceanGate hired the Canadian vessel Polar Prince, a medium duty icebreaker that was formerly operated by the Canadian Coast Guard, to ferry dozens of people and the submersible craft to the North Atlantic wreck site.

The 5-person submersible, named Titan, is capable of diving 4,000 meters or 13,120 ft. "with a comfortable safety margin," OceanGate said in its filing with the court. □

Power outages continue across southern U.S.; triple-digit heat wave grips Texas

By **PAUL J. WEBER**

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — More than 100,000 customers in the southern U.S. remained without power Monday following damaging storms, leaving residents searching for relief as sweltering temperatures continued to scorch the region.

Power outages for some customers in the piney woods of Texas could stretch late into this week as crews scrambled to make repairs. In some parts of Louisiana and Mississippi, the heat wave has been



Forrest Avenue, in the South Highland neighborhood, is dark except for streetlights in the early hours of Saturday, June 17, 2023, following a storm, in Shreveport, La.

Associated Press

accompanied by heavy rain, punishing winds, thunderstorms and hail.

In Louisiana, officials closed nearly two dozen state offices Monday because of the risks of severe weather. "It's been unbearable," Leigh Johnson, a resident of Mount Vernon, Texas, told Dallas television station KXAS. She had not had power for about three days.

"It's been horrible because it's like, the heat index has been so bad that literally, we're having to sit in the cold baths to cool ourselves

down. Our animals as well, we're having to stick them in the bathtub just to keep them from having a heat stroke, it's been that bad," she said. More than 120,000 customers were without power as of Monday morning in the eastern parts of Texas and portions of Louisiana and Oklahoma, according to Southwestern Electric Power Company. Another 4,000 customers were still waiting for electricity to come back in the Texas town of Perryton after a devastating tornado ripped through last week. □

Spain approves far fewer asylum claims than European average

By JENNIFER O'MAHONY
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain received a record number of claims for refugee status and international protection last year, but the government rejects far more applications than the European average, a non-governmental organization said Monday.

The Spanish Commission for Refugees, also known by its Spanish acronym CEAR, released its annual report analyzing Spain's response to increased demand for sanctuary in 2022 because of the forced displacement of millions by Russia's war in Ukraine, multiple conflicts in Africa and political crises in Latin America.

Spain received 118,842 asylum requests last year, its highest ever and the third-highest number in the European Union. However, only 16.5% of applicants whose cases were decided were awarded protection, compared with an EU average of 38.5%. Separately, 161,037 Ukrainians were awarded temporary protection under an EU-wide program.

"Once again we demand



Riot police cordon off the area after migrants arrived on Spanish soil and crossed the fences separating the Spanish enclave of Melilla from Morocco, in Melilla, Spain, June 24, 2022.

Associated Press

the law be respected to offer protection," said Elena Muñoz, legal coordinator at CEAR. The group criticized Spain's lack of safe, legal pathways to asylum, lengthy bureaucracy and an appointment system that has been hijacked by criminal networks to extort money from vulnerable asylum-seekers.

The report condemned the death of "at least" 37 migrants corralled into a border area separating Spain's north African enclave of Melilla from Morocco last summer, describing "the most violent and cruel scenes witnessed on a European border in many years." The tragedy, involving Spanish and Mo-

roccan security forces, is now the subject of a legal complaint filed by several migrant rights groups after Spanish prosecutors shelved an investigation last year.

Spain received 20% of all irregular arrivals to the EU last year, largely by boat. But the rate of acceptance for asylum, refugee status

and other forms of protection varies hugely depending on nationality.

Spain's historic and cultural ties with Latin America mean it's the destination of choice for many fleeing violence, political persecution and hunger in Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and Nicaragua. Applicants of these nationalities were turned away in their tens of thousands by Spain last year.

The CEAR report states that 95% of Colombians and 96% of Peruvians were rejected by Spain from accessing any form of international protection in 2022. More than 36,000 Colombians filed applications for protection, with 16,187 of the cases reaching a final decision.

Of those, Spain awarded 646 people of that nationality with refugee status in 2022, while a few dozen more received lesser forms of protection.

Just four Venezuelans were granted refugee status last year among the 31,234 whose applications for any form of international protection were decided. □

U.N. calls on Middle East and European nations to raise money for Sudan

By JACK JEFFERY
Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The United Nations called on countries

in the Middle East and Europe on Monday to ramp up aid efforts in Sudan to address the deepening hu-

manitarian crisis.

Sudan has been rocked by fighting for more than two months as the military and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces battle for control of the country. Sudan's Health Ministry said Saturday that more than 3,000 have been killed in the conflict, which has decimated the country's fragile infrastructure and sparked ethnic violence in the western Darfur region.

"The scale and speed of Sudan's descent into death and destruction is unprecedented," U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres said at the opening of a U.N.-sponsored meeting co-hosted by Egypt, Germany, Qatar, Saudi Arabia

and the African Union in the Swiss city of Geneva.

Guterres said the organization's emergency aid program launched after the war broke out on April 15 has received less than 17% of the required \$3 billion in aid.

As the meeting progressed, numerous state representatives pledged further contributions. Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani, said that the Gulf kingdom would be giving \$50 million to the program. Katja Keul, minister of state at Germany's Federal Foreign Office, said that Berlin would pledge 200 million euros (nearly \$219 million) of humanitarian assistance

to Sudan and the region.

Speaking by a web link, U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power said that Washington would be donating an additional \$171 million in aid to Sudan. The U.N.'s top humanitarian official, Martin Griffiths, said that the United Nations would inject a further \$22 million into the program.

It remained unclear if Saudi Arabia and Egypt, two of the conflict's key mediators, would provide further financial contributions to the humanitarian initiative. Around 24.7 million people, more than half of Sudan's population, are in need of humanitarian assistance, the U.N. says. □



People board a truck as they leave Khartoum, Sudan, Monday, June 19, 2023.

Associated Press

Fiercest fighting in years erupts in West Bank camp of Jenin

By **ILAN BEN ZION** and **MAJDI MOHAMMED**

Associated Press

JENIN REFUGEE CAMP, West Bank (AP) — Israeli military forces raided a refugee camp in the northern West Bank on Monday, igniting the fiercest day of fighting in years as Palestinian militants detonated roadside bombs and Israeli helicopter gunships struck Palestinian gunmen to rescue troops trapped in the hourslong firefight.

At least five Palestinians were killed, including a 15-year-old boy, and over 90 others were wounded, Palestinian health officials said. The Palestinian Islamic Jihad group claimed three of those killed as its militants. Eight Israeli soldiers were also wounded, the army said.

The Israeli military said forces stormed into the Jenin refugee camp in the early morning to arrest two wanted militants. They faced fierce resistance. Palestinian militants said they ambushed Israeli armored vehicles with explosive devices, disabling several vehicles with troops trapped inside.

Israeli military spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht described Palestinian mili-



Smoke rises during fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian militants in the West Bank city of Jenin, Monday, June 19, 2023.

tants' use of powerful roadside bombs as "very unusual and dramatic." Five mangled vehicles were stuck in the firefight for hours, requiring the military to dispatch helicopters as part of an elaborate evacuation operation.

It was the first such use of a helicopter gunship in the occupied West Bank since the second Palestinian uprising around two decades ago, Israeli media reported. The highly militarized Jenin

refugee camp witnessed some of the biggest battles at the time.

At least one Apache helicopter fired missiles at Palestinian gunmen to try to clear the area while security forces worked to extract the trapped vehicles, the Israeli army said. The local branch of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad based in Jenin said its fighters opened fire at the combat helicopter. The group praised the militants and warned Israel to

"reconsider its calculations before its soldiers set foot on Jenin's land."

The Israeli army said that the Palestinian gunfire caused minor damage to the spinning tail rotor of a helicopter. Witnesses described the nearly 10 hours of fighting as a bedlam of gunfire and explosions.

"They were shooting at anything and everything that moved," hospital director Tawfik al-Shobaki said of Israeli forces.

Associated Press

As the Israeli military eventually withdrew its damaged vehicles from the camp in the late afternoon, Palestinians ventured out to assess the heavy damage and bury their dead.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified those killed as Khaled Asasa, 21, Qassam Abu Sariya, 29, Qais Jabarin, 21, Ahmed Daraghmeh, 19, and 15-year-old Ahmed Saqr. Of the 91 Palestinians wounded, at least 12 were in critical condition, hospital officials said. Wissam Bakkar, director of Jenin Government Hospital, said a 15-year-old girl was among the critically wounded.

Islamic Jihad claimed three of the dead as its fighters Qais Jabarin, Qassam Abu Sariya and Ahmed Daraghmeh.

A Palestinian cameraman, Hazem Nasser, wearing a clearly marked press vest, was among those seriously wounded in the fighting. His colleagues said he was shot when a building where journalists had camped out to cover the clashes came under Israeli fire.

"Of course there was a lot of shooting and explosions, but everyone knew we were journalists covering it," fellow freelance journalist Alaa Badarneh said. □

American woman who fell 165 feet near German castle is released from hospital

BERLIN (AP) — Police in southern Germany said Monday that an American tourist who was pushed into a ravine during an attack near Neuschwanstein castle in which her 21-year-old friend was killed has been released from the hospital. The 22-year-old woman had tried to stop a 30-year-old Michigan man from allegedly assaulting her friend after luring them onto a trail leading to a viewpoint overlooking the famous castle, which draws more than a million tourists every year. The older woman fell nearly

50 meters (165 feet) down a steep slope but was able to leave the hospital Friday, police spokesperson Holger Stabik said.

Both women were recovered by mountain rescuers shortly after the attack Wednesday, but the younger victim later died of her injuries in the hospital.

The suspect, whose name like those of the victims wasn't released due to German privacy rules, was arrested shortly after the incident. He is being held on suspicion of murder, attempted murder and at-

tempted sexual assault. Stabik said police have received about two dozen photos and videos on a specially created website and are appealing for anyone with additional images of the suspect and victims to come forward.

Prosecutors said the women did not know the man until the incident. A spokesperson for the prosecutors' office in Kempten, Thomas Hörmann, said the investigation into the incident is continuing but it may be three or four months before authorities decide on an indictment. □



A view of the Neuschwanstein castle, in Schwangau, Germany, Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Associated Press

Agreement between TPEF and Serlimar

100 garbage bins will be placed on the coast of Aruba

(Oranjestad)—Yesterday morning, Minister of Tourism and Public Health, Dangui Oduber, held a press conference where he announced the cooperation agreement between the Tourism Product Enhancement Fund (TPEF) and Serlimar, with coordination from the Department of Public Works (DOW), to place 100 garbage bins along the coast of Aruba.

Minister Oduber explained that TPEF will purchase 100 garbage bins, which will be placed in 10 designated areas assigned to DOW for the maintenance and cleanliness work carried out by the teams under contract with TPEF. Serlimar is the company responsible for providing the garbage bins and installing them. DOW is responsible for coordinating the locations where the bins will be placed.

"The objective is to keep these areas clean at all times. A clean and safe Aruba is the image we want to offer to both our locals and visitors. That's why this cooperation agreement is so important, and we now have the garbage bins after going through the procurement process and reaching an agreement with Serlimar," Minister Oduber emphasized.

He indicated that there are various factors that determine Aruba's tourism success. They invest in marketing, focus on diversification, continuously invest in improving Aruba's products, and ensure security to maintain Aruba as the safest country in the entire Caribbean, in the face of competition.

Regarding the announcement of the cooperation agreement, another important factor is cleanliness maintenance. "This cooperation agreement is of vital importance to have all the frequently visited areas, our localities, and the well-being of visitors well-maintained," he said. At the same time, he appealed to residents to make good use of all 100 garbage bins. The bins will be strategically located starting from Arashi up to Baby Beach.

TPEF is responsible for financing the garbage bins. It is a fund that invests in improving Aruba's product and supports awareness, cultural heritage, and the environment. This project is part of the environmental pillar.

Minister Oduber explained that for the year 2024, TPEF has several projects that have already been budgeted and will begin in the coming weeks. He mentioned the landscape project for Eagle Beach, where the entire road from the Amsterdam Manor roundabout to the Alhambra roundabout will be enhanced.

Another project is the mosaic project at Hooiberg. The Ministry of Tourism has already taken care of repairing all the steps of Hooiberg, and the next phase involves placing mosaics. Another project he mentioned, which is in the planning stage and financed by TPEF, is the Rodgers Beach project. This is an integral part of the master plan for Sero Colorado.

He further explained that the third phase of the



Baby Beach project is already in progress and will be delivered soon. Upon completion, the fourth phase will involve the renovation of the tennis courts, a kiosk, and a restaurant. Parallel to this, the Rodgers Beach project will also commence.

The third phase of the Malmok Boardwalk project aims to enhance the landscape at Fisherman Hut, and consequently, once completed, the fourth phase will connect Fisherman Hut and the Ritz Carlton. The intention, Minister Oduber indicated, is to extend this connection up to Radisson Blu, creating a continuous boardwalk route from Radisson Blu to Malmok.

Nathalie Wolff, a representative from Serlimar, provided a detailed explanation about the garbage bins to be used in this project. She emphasized that the bins are functional, ecological, and meet the highest international standards.

Wolff indicated that the bins are manufactured in Germany and have undergone various tests, including heat tests, to ensure they are specifically adapted to withstand Aruba's climate and provide maximum UV protection.

She added that TPEF requested eco-friendly bins, emphasizing the concept of "less is more." "The formula is simple: less color, more recycling. Additionally, the material used in the sushi bars is durable and 100% recyclable."

Wolff explained that the bins came in their own stands, which were precisely cut and measured to fit the bins. She added that none of the bins have sharp edges, making them safer for public use and for those responsible for their maintenance. "We are confident that the public will

make good use of them, and we have installed them for everyone's convenience and to help us preserve and care for our environment," she concluded.

Finally, Daryl Lue, a representative from DOW, confirmed DOW's role in overseeing the 10 teams under TPEF. He mentioned that in recent months, DOW faced challenges with the 100 garbage bins that belong to them, especially in some locations. "What we have encountered is that several locations have an abundance of garbage. Initially, we were doing the cleaning once a day and not on weekends, but we had to adapt our operations, and now we clean five times a week, twice a day, including weekends. This same program will continue for the TPEF teams," he said.

For this project, DOW advised the most strategic locations to place the garbage bins, considering the difficulties encountered in recent months. The biggest problem, Lue emphasized, is when people see a full garbage bin and throws the garbage on the side. "In this case, I urge the Aruban community not to do this. If you see a full garbage bin, please find another way to dispose of it," he emphasized.

Regarding the placement of the TPEF garbage bins, Lue mentioned that they will start from Arashi and go all the way to Baby Beach. Bins will be placed at Eagle Beach, Linear Park, the Zeewijk area, and finally at Baby Beach and Rodgers Beach.

Finally, he added that slight modifications will be made to the bins, creating a small hole in the lid to prevent the bins from becoming too full, as they are specifically designed for disposing of small garbage pieces.

LOCAL



Visit the island's popular cave sites!



(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadirikiri cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves... and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadirikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as

it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadirikiri cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadirikiri Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

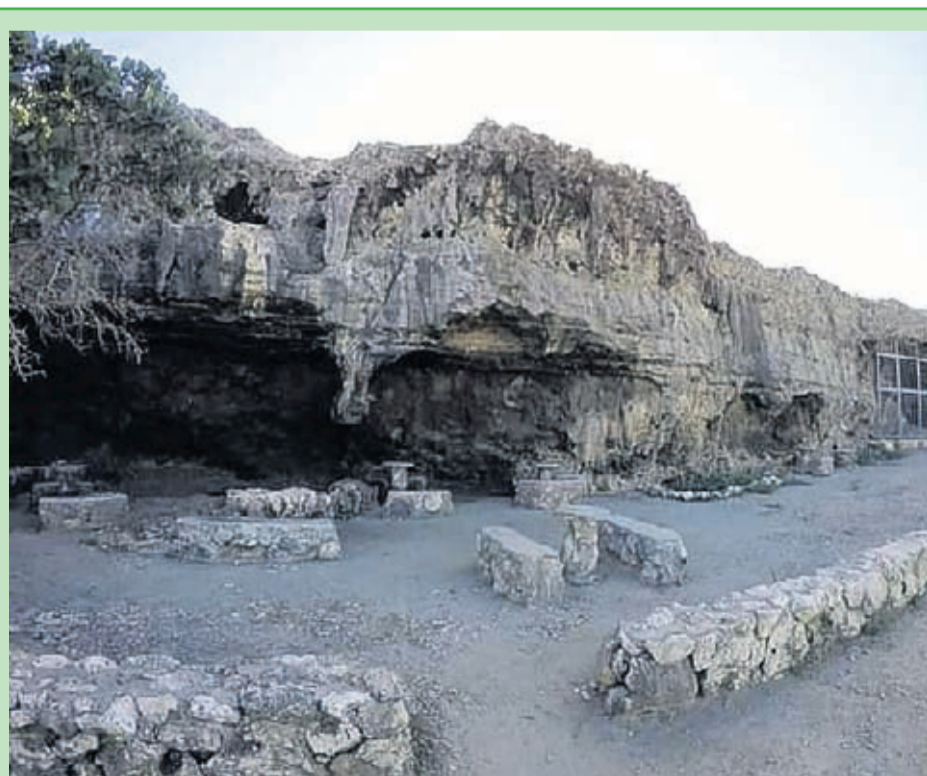
Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and

other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love
The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight!



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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Paradise Beach Villas

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Distinguished Visitors of Aruba. This wonderful couple was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:
Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were: Distinguished Visitors of Aruba
Mr. Brian & Mrs. Chelsea Robinson from South Carolina, United States.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort bestowed the certificate to the honorees, presented them with memorable gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their best-loved vacation destination, and as their home-away-from-home.

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our

sincere gratitude and appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Robinson for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island".

Top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the Robinson's were:
Aruba is a family-friendly Island.
Aruba's beaches & sun.
Aruba's marine life.
"Aruba has a lot of photo opportunities."
Aruba's people!



Aruba to me

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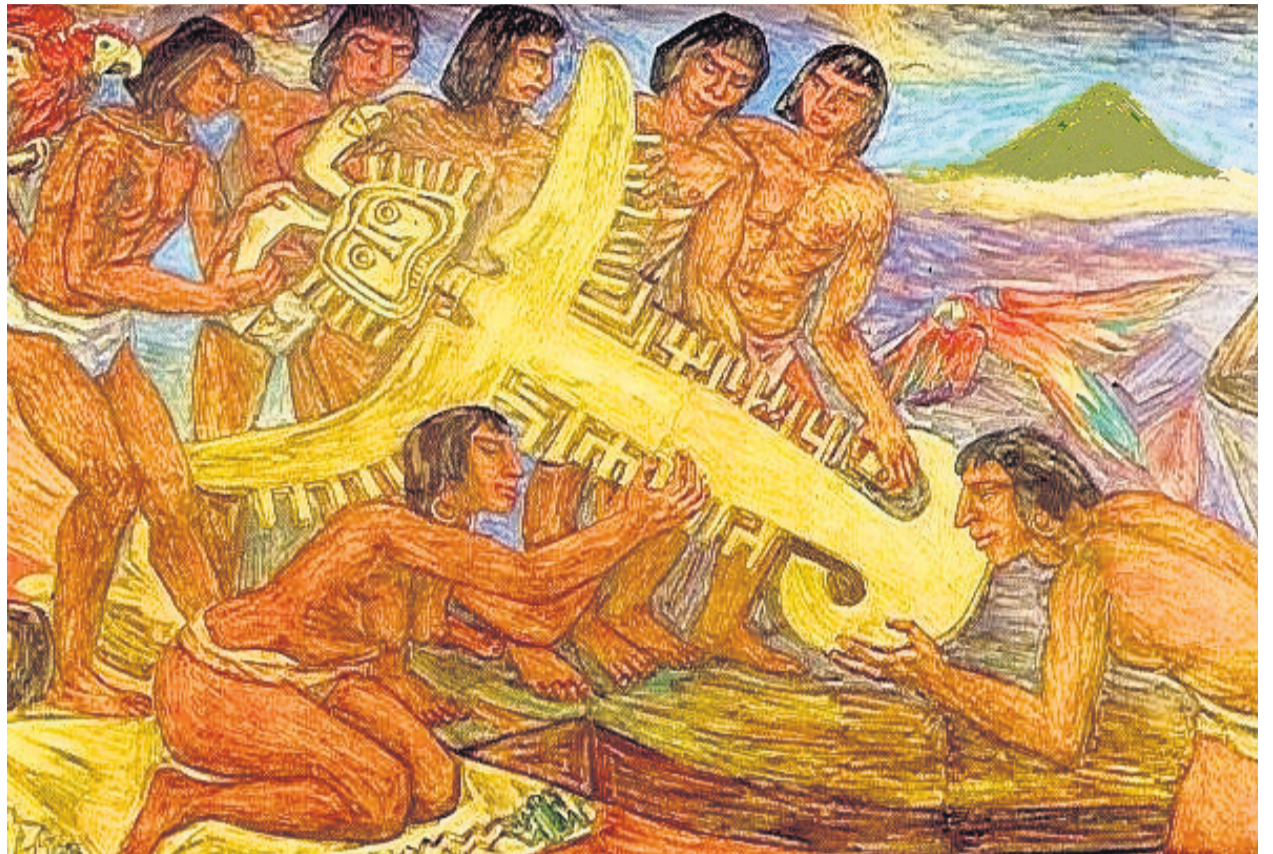
Episode 5; Coming from the South to the beloved rock They who set foundation for our nation

Approximately 3000 to 2500 years ago agropotters from the Amazon-Orinoco river basins started their journey spreading in a constant Northwestern direction. They did this mainly over land. Great obstacles had to be overcome during their journey.

The enigma is what triggered this new wave of migration on land, while other groups chose the rivers to reach to the Atlantic Ocean. In time they perfected their vessels into sea worthy canoes, capable to traveling alongside the coastline and the open sea, reaching the isles of Caribbean Sea. These Amerindians were from a totally different ethnic group if compared to the Paleo natives we mentioned before. These tropical rain forest farmers were different in many other physical and culture aspects. Arawakan speaking people who in a thousand years or more colonized the northern and coastal areas of South America, including almost all the islands of the Caribbean Sea.

However it is most probably that the ancient and well-cured Paleo cousins, who populated the land before, behind the Cordillera de Merida and the Segovia Highlands in Venezuela, which together with the Cordillera de Perija in Colombia, formed an enclosed highland area. This land stretched around a big lake, following along the coast line and reaching the ocean and the isthmus of Paraguaná .

They played their part in their cultural development of the new comers, since they knew exactly how to survive in this part of land. This Cordillera or mountainous ridge represented at one time a natural barrier, separating the area of Lake Maracaibo and where the earth stretched east, reaching the Caribbean Sea. This land of forest and palms, abundant in game was soon to be transformed in to an area where slash-and-burn or tropical forest agricultural techniques were introduced and practiced. This method of clearing the land for agricultural purposes is associated with the cultivation of



mainly tubers such as yucca, yams, sweet potatoes and probably some Musa varieties, like Bananas and plantains were common. There was many plants that could be grinded in to flour for the elaboration of their main staples such as arepas, cachapas and allacas, etc.

A more organized form of agriculture developed with the acquiring of the seeds of life or better known as the American corn, a totally new crop that was developed in Mexico that changed the world. This Indian corn or Zea Maize soon became the transformer of cultures, where simple and the ordinary use of clay is transformed into the development of sophisticated ceramic artifacts of high artistic mastery of the ceramic techniques. Ceremonial ornaments were created in gratitude to the spirits of life and fertility. The Paleo hunters were those who knew the land, knew the use of the flora,

fauna and what was available as raw materials, essential and elemental for a their rapid adaptation.

These people were the descendant of South American tropical-forest farmers. They became the heirs of the land and later the legendary Caquetio tribe. The people who received the Spaniards on arrival when the R.C. cross was brought from the main land. At that time, an organized society had established itself responding to the main chief who lived on the mainland. History mentioned his frequent visits on this part of his territory of influence.

The Caquetios

Like hunters and gatherers, had socio-cultural units consisting mainly of kin-based populations which were structured along the lines of age and sex, without much in the way of economic, political, or religious grounds for social status differentiation. Social controls were largely based on kinship rights and obligations of a moral nature, except in cases of certain military activities that were often under the temporary leadership of special chiefs. Their richer technology and production of agricultural surpluses enabled villages to remain in the same place for many years. They were supported by a more adequate and dependable food supply, which included maize (corn), beans, squash, manioc, and tropical vegetables and fruits, as well as the riches of the mangroves forests and the Caribbean Sea.

Caquetío, also spelled Caiquetio, or Caiquetia, Indians of northwestern South America were living along the shores of Lake Maracaibo at the time of the Spanish conquest. They conquered the islands Bonaire, Curacao and Aruba.

Source; Island Insight column by Etnia Nativa



Aruba

The legend behind its name



(Oranjestad)—Most folkloric tales and legends in Aruba revolve around our indigenous ancestors, who came from mainland Venezuela, and discovered the island and made it into their new home. This particular legend tells the story of the birth of the name Aruba.

The legend follows the life of Arua, an indigenous Cacique originally from Aroa in the Falcon state in Venezuela in the year 50 AD. Arua had a son around the year 70 AD with his wife Shira, who they named Corobori. When Corobori was old enough, he joined his father on the usual boat trip to the islands of Curaçao and Bonaire to gather salt.



On their way back to Mainland Venezuela, they were caught up in a heavy rain storm—a side effect from a passing, but far away, hurricane. Of course, because of the lack of motors and sail, their boat was left in the mercy of the heavy winds. After a while, the storm started to pass, and the clouds began to clear up. Finally able to see around them, the Cacique spotted land approximately an hour away. So, they started to row in that direction until they reached the coast.

Once they arrived on what they thought was Venezuela, they decided to stay the night and fix their kayak. The next morning, the Ca-

cique ordered his son and a few warriors to go find any sign of population in the area: "Corobori," Arua said. "Don't come back without news. It's in your hands how long we stay here till we find our family. So, if you need to take a week to gather information, we will wait for you."

"Don't worry," Corobori replied. "As soon as we have any information, we will let you know." Armed with arrows and spears, backpacks filled with food and water containers, they set off. They climbed several small hills, but no sign of a village. They crossed different dry riverbeds, but no sign of anything. When the sun finally descended, they found themselves near a fairly tall hill and decided to climb it for a better view of a village. This hill was called Pan Dushi or Orcuyo, which today we call Hooiberg.

The next morning, they could clearly see that they have landed on an island, but an unfamiliar one at that. When Corobori went back to where his father was waiting, he told him the news: "Father Arua, you have just discovered an island, but it is not Curaçao or Bonaire. Far in the south, we saw the big mountains of our homeland Venezuela, which we could have never seen on the other island. This leads us to believe we are on a new island. But that's not all. When the sun came up, we saw in the distance a glowing plain, which we think may be salt."

The Cacique was pleased to hear of his son's findings. He decided to stay a couple days on the newly-discovered island in search for salt. The next morning they ascended Hooiberg again and stayed to see if they could find nearby smoke, indicating an inhabitant village. But they found nothing. So they went back to their initial arrival settlement, now known as Santo

Largo in Savaneta. The next morning they hiked along the Spaans Lagoen near the Mangel Halto Beach and reached the area of Bushiri. There, they boarded their kayaks and heading to what we know now as Malmok, where they found rocks of salt. After a couple days of exploring the island and gathering some salt rocks, they left for Venezuela, where they were reunited with their families.

Throughout the year, they travelled back and forth to Aruba, collecting salt. After a while they settled on the

our people, and be the leader you were always meant to become. If one day you leave my island, do not forget that it is also yours. This is my last wish: When I die, bury me in our maize plantation."

And so when the Cacique passed away, his wishes were granted and he was laid to rest in the area we now know as the Paradera Cemetery. Where he used to live, they built the Paradera Church.

And that is the tale of what inspired the Aruba name. In



island, generations of families living along the coast. Corobori was the first indigenous inhabitant in our history to explore the entirety of the island.

Arua, after decades as the leader of his tribe, spent his last days on the island. Having reached 80 years old, he called for his family on his death bed. In his hammock, he said: "My children, many years have passed, and I've asked my warrior to bring me back to the island so I can laid to rest. The God of living has given me the gift of life to see my son, grandchildren and great grandchildren. But now he is calling me home. Corobori, my torch is now passed to you. Guide

the generations that lived or travelled back and forth to the island, there were many familiar names*, like Guadiriki, a warrior who was there when the island got discovered and his son, whom he called Huliba; Corobori and his children, Corodori, Camacuri and Turibana, Masiduri; and Malmok, the 13-year-old boy who alerted the Cacique when the Caribes attacked.

Familiar names: all these names are familiar to Arubans, as these are the names of places and plants on the island.

Source: Un storia di e Indjan Arua (A story of the Indian Arua) by Adolf (Dufi) Kock

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS** 41 "Adam Bede" author
 1 One of a bear trio
 5 States
 10 Bakery come-on
 12 Pastel shade
 13 Nursing concern

M	E	D	I	A	N	S	O	P	H
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N	U	D	G	E	D	G	E	A	R
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A	L	A	N	H	A	N	G	A	R
T	A	R	T	I	N	N	A	T	E
S	I	T	S	P	E	E	R	E	D

Saturday's answer

- DOWN**
 1 Origami need
 2 Ark's landing site
 3 Thick soup
 4 French friend
 5 Choir voice
 6 Singer Damone
 7 Pass by
 8 Least common
 9 Fra-grances
 11 Give fizz to
 14 Sleep disturber
 19 Analyzes
 20 Dwelling
 24 Angry rant
 25 Burn
 26 Bullfight star
 27 Battery ends
 29 Get
 30 Stone on screen
 33 Aids illegally
 35 Frozen desserts
 38 Salt Lake City
 39 Ga. neighbor

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10				11		12		
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34			35			36		
37		38				39		
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42						43		

6-20

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-20

CRYPTOQUOTE

K NUTY YB WKTE RKF I YLI
 DKJMW WKTE, TBY NBJJKTE
 UDBPY NLB LIUJW BJ NLUY
 YLIH YLKTF. — JPCK

Saturday's Cryptoquote: WHEN A FATHER SPEAKS, MAY HIS CHILDREN HEAR THE LOVE IN HIS VOICE ABOVE ALL ELSE. — UNKNOWN

Here comes El Nino: Likely add even more heat to a warming world

By SETH BORENSTEIN and ISABELLA O'MALLEY
Associated Press

An early bird El Nino has officially formed, likely to be strong, warp weather worldwide and give an already warming Earth an extra kick of natural heat, meteorologists announced.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Thursday issued an El Nino advisory, announcing the arrival of the climatic condition. It may not quite be like the others.

It formed a month or two earlier than most El Ninos do, which "gives it room to grow," and there's a 56% chance it will be considered strong and a 25% chance it reaches super-sized levels, said climate scientist Michelle L'Heureux, head of NOAA's El Nino/La Nina forecast office.

"If this El Nino tips into the largest class of events ... it will be the shortest recurrence time in the historical record," said Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at Brown University. Such a short gap between El Ninos leaves communities with less time to recover from damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and ecosystems like coral reefs.

Usually, an El Nino mutes hurricane activity in the Atlantic, giving relief to coastal areas in states from Texas to New England, Central America and the Caribbean, weary from recent record busy years. But this time, forecasters don't see that happening, because of record hot Atlantic temperatures that would counteract the El



Cars and debris from washed away homes line a canal in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022, one week after the passage of Hurricane Ian.

Associated Press

Nino winds that normally decapitate many storms. Hurricanes strengthen and grow when they travel over warm seawater, and the tropical regions of the Atlantic Ocean are "exceptionally warm," said Kristopher Karnauskas, associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. So this year, NOAA and others are predicting a near-average Atlantic hurricane season.

In the past, a strong El Nino has led to record global warmth, like in 2016 and 1998. Scientists earlier this year had been saying next year is more likely to set a record heat, especially because El Ninos usually reach peak power in winter. But this El Nino started even earlier than usual.

"The onset of El Nino has implications for placing 2023 in the running for warmest year on record when combined with climate-warming background," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd.

An El Nino is a natural,

temporary and occasional warming of part of the Pacific that shifts weather patterns across the globe, often by moving the airborne paths for storms. The world earlier this year got out of an unusually long-lasting and strong La Nina El Nino's flip side with cooling that exacerbated drought in the U.S. West and augmented Atlantic hurricane season.

What this in some ways means is that some of the wild weather of the past three years such as drought in places will flip the opposite way.

"If you've been suffering three years of a profound drought like in South America, then a tilt toward wet might be a welcome to development," L'Heureux said. "You don't want flooding, but certainly there are portions of the world that may benefit from the onset of El Nino." For the next few months, during the northern summer, El Nino will most be felt in the Southern Hemisphere with "minimal impacts" in North America, L'Heureux said.

El Nino strongly tilts Australia toward drier and warmer conditions with northern South America Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela likely to be drier and Southeast Argentina and parts of Chile likely to be wetter, she said. □

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Q&A: Carlos Santana: 'My guitar is my best lover, ever'

By **JAKE COYLE**
AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Take no prisoners — peacefully," Carlos Santana sometimes tells his bandmates before taking the stage.

"I don't like to coast. I don't like to rope-a-dope," Santana says. "I want to get in the middle of the ring and knock the sucker out. That way the referee can't steal the fight from me."

Santana, 75, can still whip a crowd into a frenzy like few others. He's been doing it since he stormed onto the San Francisco scene in the late '60s. He left the Woodstock audience dazed and stunned before the first Santana record came out.

The new documentary by Rudy Valdez, "Carlos," which is premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival and will be released this fall in theaters by Sony Pictures Classics, chronicles the meteoric rise of one of the most singular guitar players in rock history. The critic Robert Christgau once wrote: "He is less a man of style than of sound, a clear, loud, fluent sound that cleanses with the same motion no matter how often that motion is repeated."

Santana, who launches the nationwide 1001 Rainbows Tour in Newark, New Jersey, on June 21, recently spoke by Zoom from his Bay Area home in California. He's



Carlos Santana poses for a portrait on Friday, June 16, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

been in San Francisco since his family (his father played the violin in a mariachi band) moved from Mexico in the 1960s. "The Bay area definitely attracts characters, you know?" said Santana. "Like Minnesota Fats or Les Paul. Rascals. I call them Divine Rascals."

Santana, speaking with a panoramic photograph of the Woodstock performance hanging on the wall behind him, reflected on his journey, his sound and some of the demons he's faced along the way.

"I have nothing but good

memories," said Santana. "I have developed selective celestial amnesia."

AP: How was it to watch a movie of your life?

SANTANA: It's strange. It's interesting to watch this person constantly strive and believe that he belongs. Ha ha! That he belongs on stage with these incredible musicians. Who would have thunk it that one minute I'm washing dishes at Tic Tock (Drive-In) and the next I'm on stage with Jerry Garcia and Eric Clapton and they're looking at me like I definitely

got something they want to learn from? They'd all go, "Where did you get that?" And I'd say, "Well, when you were listening to this, I was listening to a Hungarian gypsy musician named Gábor Szabó." And also drummers. I learned a lot from African drummers. So I learned how to scramble the eggs differently. The guys from Creedence Clearwater used to say: "What is it you call that music you're playing?" And I go, "African rhythms with blues guitar."

AP: There are many endur-

ing relationships you have in "Carlos" but how would you characterize your relationship to the guitar?

SANTANA: My guitar is my best lover, ever. Lovers come and go, but your relationship with the guitar any brand or anything stays. But it's your relationship with that sound. When you put your fingers on that note, you get chills. That's the best lover. You discover the sensation of getting the first French kiss. I'll stop there because this should be PG. But it all deals with the same thing. It all deals with "Oh my God." The big G-spot, which is God. When you hit that, they all go, "Oh my God." When you play music like that, it's more than just clever notes. It becomes emotion, feelings, passion. That's music to me. Music without emotion, passion or feelings is just clever noise.

AP: You have always had a distinct, instantly recognizable guitar sound, like a voice. Where did your tone come from?

SANTANA: I used to lock myself in a closet in the dark and try to play like B.B. or Otis Rush, all the people that I love. And it used to frustrate me that I couldn't sound like that. Then one day I woke up and I go, "Hey, stupid. You're not supposed to sound like them." □

Author Salman Rushdie awarded prestigious German prize

BERLIN - Writer Salman Rushdie has been awarded a prestigious German prize for his literary work and for his resolve and positive attitude in the face of constant danger, the prize organizers said Monday.

The Peace Prize of the German Book Trade said the British-American author would receive the award in Frankfurt on Oct. 22.

Rushdie's writing "combines narrative vision with constant literary innovation, humor and wisdom,"

the jury said. "He describes the force with which violent regimes destroy whole societies, but also the indestructibility of the individual's spirit of resistance."

Last August, Rushdie was stabbed repeatedly while on stage at a literary festival in New York state.

"Despite massive physical and psychological consequences that he is still wrestling with, he continues to write in an imaginative and deeply human way," the German jury wrote.

"We are honoring Salman Rushdie for his resolve, his positive attitude to life and for the fact that he enriches the world with his pleasure in narrating."

Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini had condemned as blasphemous passages referring to the Prophet Muhammad in Rushdie's 1988 novel "The Satanic Verses." Khomeini issued a decree the following year calling for Rushdie's death, forcing the author into hiding, although he had been trav-



Author Salman Rushdie attends the 2023 PEN America Literary Gala Thursday, May 18, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

eling freely for years before last summer's stabbing. The German prize, which is

endowed with 25,000 euros (\$27,350), has been awarded since 1950. □

U.S. beats Canada 2-0 to win CONCACAF Nations League on goals

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Having scored his first goal for the United States and won his first medal, Folarin Balogun looked to a future that includes a 2026 World Cup co-hosted by America.

"I've only been here a short amount of time, but already I feel a part of it and I feel a part of something bigger," he said.

Balogun and Chris Richards scored their first international goals, both off assists from Gio Reyna, and the U.S. beat Canada 2-0 on Sunday night for the Americans' second straight CONCACAF Nations League title. "It's another step in the right direction,"

U.S. captain Christian Pulisic said. "It's just going to be about these knockout games. Come those big tournaments, Copa América, World Cup, it's time to get tough. We got to step up and score the goals when it counts and keep them out of our goal."

Richards scored in the 12th minute from Reyna's corner kick, bouncing a header from 7 yards to the left of goalkeeper Milan Borjan for his first goal in 10 international appearances.

Balogun, who debuted in Thursday's 3-0 win over Mexico after choosing to play for the U.S. over England, doubled the lead in



United States players celebrate after defeating Canada in a CONCACAF Nations League final match Sunday, June 18, 2023, in Las Vegas.

the 34th when he took a feed from Reyna and held off Scott Kennedy with his right arm to slot past Borjan. "We're looking beyond to the 2026 World Cup, and we need to perform in high-intensity knockout games," interim coach B.J. Callaghan said. "That's something that we learned from the World Cup."

Callaghan took over May 30 and also will run the team in the CONCACAF Gold Cup starting next weekend. Gregg Berhalter, brought back as coach Fri-

day 5 1/2 months after his contract was allowed to expire, won't return to the sidelines until September exhibitions.

Before a crowd of just 35,000 at Allegiant Stadium, the U.S. extended its home unbeaten streak against Canada to 22 games dating to 1957. Canada remained without a title since the 2000 Gold Cup.

Reyna sparked both goals from a central midfield role rather than the wing Berhalter used him on, then left at halftime with a calf

injury and was replaced by Luca de la Torre. Reyna's lack of hustle in training at the World Cup and his family's angry response created the controversy that led to Berhalter's January departure.

"It shows his quality that's on the field, his ball security, his ability to take on two or three players and connect passes," Callaghan said. "We've challenged Gio to do more work off the ball on the defensive side, and he's absolutely risen to the occasion." Before Rich-

ards' goal, the Americans had not scored from a corner kick since Jordan Morris' goal at El Salvador on June 14 last year.

"I definitely know I didn't play that much this year, but I know what I can bring," said Richards, who had just four Premier League starts and nine appearances for Crystal Palace.

Callaghan made three changes from Thursday, inserting central defender Walker Zimmerman for Miles Robinson and midfielder Brenden Aaronson and right back Joe Scally for Weston McKennie and Sergiño Dest, both suspended after getting red cards against El Tri.

Canada coach John Herdman said the 6-foot-3 Zimmerman and 6-foot-2 Richards were difficult to defend against.

"We're just not in that killer area of the pitch," Herdman said. "We've talked about this post-World Cup. It's in the boxes where Canada's suffering. You don't get time to work with the players. There's no time. But we need this September window. We need the resources where we can actually put a camp together, where I can work for six days on the things that make the biggest difference moving forward." □

Associated Press

With punctured hole repaired, U.S. boat returns to sea

By **JIMMY GOLEN**
AP Sports Writer

The American sailboat in the Ocean Race had the hole in its hull repaired and set off for Italy in an attempt to rejoin the around-the-world competition before it is over.

The 11th Hour Racing Team left The Hague, Netherlands, on Sunday, less than 72 hours after it was T-boned by another boat just 17 minutes into the start of the final leg. Its goal is to reach Genoa before the July 1 in-port race that serves as the grand finale of the six-

month, 32,000-nautical mile (37,000-mile, 59,000-km) competition.

"We were determined that this would not put an end to our Ocean Race campaign," 11th Hour skipper Charlie Enright said. "And I hope it is far from over. It is a testament to the hard work of the entire team that, just 72 hours after the incident, we are able to get back out to sea."

11th Hour took a two-point lead into the seventh and final leg, a 2,500 nautical mile (2,877 mile, 4,630 km) sprint to Genoa be-

fore Guyot environnement Team Europe crashed its bowsprit into the hull of the Newport, Rhode Island-based boat on Thursday. Both boats retired from the leg. Guyot skipper Benjamin Dutreux has admitted the collision was his fault. 11th Hour has requested compensation in the standings from the World Sailing International Jury; the timeline for the decision has not been announced.

Current estimates have 11th Hour arriving in Genoa on June 30. "We are very tight on time but we will do



This handout provided by The Ocean Race shows the damaged 11th Hour Racing team boat as it returned to The Hague, Netherlands after being T-boned by Guyot environnement Team Europe during the last leg of The Ocean Race around-the-world sailing competition near Aarhus, Denmark, Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Associated Press

everything we can to get to Genoa to join the rest of the fleet for the grand fi-

nale of The Ocean Race," Enright said. □

Tom Watson is the latest to want answers on the PGA Tour's deal

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eight-time major champion Tom Watson wants answers on the PGA Tour's new business partnership with Saudi backers of LIV Golf, asking in a letter Monday to Commissioner Jay Monahan if the deal was the only way to solve the tour's financial hardship.

That was one of several questions posed by Watson in the letter, which was obtained by The Associated Press and was sent to Monahan, the PGA Tour board and "my fellow players."

He said the questions were "compounded by the hypocrisy in disregarding the moral issue."

On the day after Wyndham Clark became the latest major champion by winning the U.S. Open, focus shifted back to an issue that has consumed golf for the last three years. It took a stunning turn June 6 when the PGA Tour announced it had joined with Saudi Arabia's national wealth fund and the European tour to put commercial businesses under one roof.

Monahan has referred to it as a "framework agreement" and he had few answers for players in a meeting two weeks ago at the Canadian Open. A Player Advisory Council meeting



Tom Watson gets ready to hit in the honorary starter ceremony before the first round at the Masters golf tournament on Thursday, April 7, 2022, in Augusta, Ga.

is scheduled for Tuesday ahead of the Travelers Championship in Connecticut.

Monahan, who stepped away for a "medical situation" on Wednesday, is not expected to attend. Two of his top executives are in charge of the tour's day-to-day operations.

The tour said in the June 6 announcement that Yasir Al-Rumayyan, the governor of the Public Investment Fund, would be chairman of the new company and

Monahan would be the CEO. Two PGA Tour board members, Ed Herlihy and Jimmy Dunne, would join them on the executive committee.

The deal contains assurances the tour would keep a controlling voting interest in the new commercial entity regardless of how much the PIF contributes, according to a person who has seen the agreement.

The person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity

because the deal has not been made public, said the agreement allows for a financial investment from PIF and pooling the three parties' current and future golf-related investments. That would include LIV Golf. The agreement said the new company's board would have majority representation appointed by the PGA Tour, the person said. The PGA Tour would still have full authority on how it runs its competition.

Still missing are key details

Associated Press

such as the future of LIV Golf. Dustin Johnson and Bryson DeChambeau have said they are planning for a 2024 season.

Meanwhile, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., suggested Sunday that congressional hearings could be held within weeks.

Blumenthal is chair of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. He said on CBS's "Face the Nation" the subcommittee wants facts on what went into the deal and who was behind it and details on the structure and governance of the new company.

"There are very, very few details," Blumenthal said. "But remember, what we have here is essentially a repressive, autocratic foreign government taking control over an iconic, cherished American institution for the clear purpose of cleansing its public image," he said.

One key to the agreement was ending all litigation. The PGA Tour and Saudi-backed LIV Golf filed a motion on Friday to dismiss with prejudice the antitrust lawsuit LIV players filed in August, the countersuit the tour filed in September and even a PIF appeal to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to avoid having to give depositions in the lawsuits. They cannot be refiled. □



Connor Bedard speaks with the media following his workout at the NHL hockey combine, Saturday, June 10, 2023, in Buffalo, N.Y.

Associated Press

Canada's Connor Bedard honored as IIHF's first male player of the year

By The Associated Press

Presumptive No. 1 NHL draft pick Connor Bedard has been honored as the International Ice Hockey Federation's first male player of the year.

The IIHF announced Monday Bedard finished first in voting among a panel of representatives from 22 countries, well ahead of Latvian goalie Arturs Silovs, Swiss forward Andres Ambuhl and German defenseman Moritz Seider.

Bedard helped Canada win the past two world junior championships, played last summer and this past winter, before turning 18. He was MVP of the most recent tournament after leading all players in scoring with 23 points in seven games.

The Chicago Blackhawks recently won the lottery for the chance to select Bedard with the first pick and are expected to do so at the draft in Nashville next

week. Bedard swept the Canadian Hockey League awards, becoming the first voted player of the year, top prospect and top scorer following his 143-point season with the Regina Pats of the Western Hockey League.

Hilary Knight was voted the IIHF's first female player of the year for captaining the U.S. to gold at this year's women's world championship. □